

01648

1993/11/26

IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED
EAP/L CARDS CENTER

INCOMING

PRE 2 17

PAGE 01 BEIJIN 42500 261155Z 039810 5072559
ACTION: CM (05)INFO: EAP (01) P (01) RA (01) EXN (01) CC (02)
----- 26/1400Z A1 WB (TOTAL COPIES: 014)

ACTION EAP-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AIT-03 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OAS-00
DINT-05 DODE-00 DODE-00 EUR-00 H-09 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 1-00 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SA-00 /049W
-----097794 261156Z /38O 261154Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7827
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AIT TAIPEI 2949
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 042500

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, APEC, CH, US
SUBJECT: CHINESE PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO CLINTON-JIANG
MEETING: AN UNCERTAIN BEGINNING

REF: A) BEIJING 41535 NOTAL, B) FBIS HK 2311102993

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE PRELIMINARY CHINESE REACTION TO
PRESIDENT CLINTON AND JIANG'S MEETING IN SEATTLE HAS BEEN
TENTATIVE AND LOW KEY. WHILE MEDIA REPORTS HAVE FOCUSED
ON REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JIANG AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN
DESCRIBING THE MEETING AS "A GOOD BEGINNING," THIS
CAUTIOUS PUBLIC TREATMENT AND GENERALLY CIRCUMSPECT
COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY CONTACTS INDICATE THAT A FINAL
CHINESE SPIN MAY NOT EMERGE UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER JIANG AND
QIAN'S RETURN FROM THEIR CURRENT TRIP NEXT WEEK. HONG
KONG PRC-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE UPBEAT,
AS WAS ONE CHINESE DIPLOMAT HERE. END SUMMARY.3. IN CONTRAST TO THE EXTENSIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILD-
UP OF THE NOVEMBER 20 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CLINTON
AND JIANG ZEMIN AS A TURNING POINT IN U.S.-CHINA
RELATIONS, THE PRELIMINARY CHINESE REACTION TO THE TWO
LEADER'S MEETING HAS BEEN TENTATIVE AND LOW KEY. ALTHOUGH
THE JIANG-CLINTON BILATERAL RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE
ON NOVEMBER 21, IT COMPETED WITH OR WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE
ECONOMIC RESULTS OF THE APEC MEETING, JIANG'S OTHER
BILATERALS WITH APEC LEADERS AND DETAILS OF HIS SUBSEQUENT
CONFIDENTIAL 2BILATERALS WITH APEC LEADERS AND DETAILS OF HIS SUBSEQUENT
VISITS TO CUBA AND BRAZIL. NOR WAS THERE PRESS REPORTING
OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
(MOTEC) WU YI'S MEETING WITH U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
KANTOR OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BROWN.4. MEDIA REPORTS FOCUSED ON REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JIANG
AND VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHENDESCRIBING THE MEETING AS A "GOOD BEGINNING" IN U.S.-CHINA
RELATIONS BUT AVOIDING SUPERLATIVES AND SPECIFIC DETAILS.
JIANG WAS QUOTED REPEATING THE CHINESE POSITION THATBEIJIN 42500 261155Z 039810 5072559
DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE BASED ON
EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO PRESSURE
BY EITHER SIDE. NOTICEABLY LACKING IN THE POST-MEETING
COVERAGE WERE FOLLOW-ON COMMENTARIES IN THE OFFICIAL
MAINLAND PRESS. HOWEVER, AN EDITORIAL ON THE CLINTON-
JIANG MEETING IN THE PRC-CONTROLLED HONG KONG WEN WEI PO
(REF B) WAS POSITIVE IN TONE.5. A MIDDLE-RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SECONDED TO
THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD US
THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING WAS A PLUS FOR CHINA ON TAIWAN-
RELATED GROUNDS, SINCE PRESIDENT CLINTON REAFFIRMED THE
U.S. ONE CHINA POLICY AND COMMITMENT TO THE THREE U.S.-
CHINA COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH
POLOFFS THIS WEEK, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY
CIRCUMSPECT. LIKEWISE, A CURSORY SAMPLING OF CHINESE
GOVERNMENT THINK TANK RESEARCHERS ELICITED NO TRENCANT
COMMENT.6. THIS CAUTIOUS TREATMENT MAY INDICATE NOTHING MORE THAN
THAT JIANG AND QIAN ARE STILL ON THE ROAD. BEIJING HAD
BILLED THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING AS A KEY TURNING POINT IN
U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 19, THE CHINESE
APPROACH EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE U.S. AND CHINA TO
FOCUS ON COMMON INTERESTS RATHER THAN DIFFERENCES IN THEIR
VALUE SYSTEMS AS THE BASIS FOR A NEW MORE POSITIVE
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED COURTING OF
THE AMERICAN PRESS, JIANG AND QIAN ATTEMPTED TO DEFINETHESE INTERESTS PRIMARILY IN ECONOMIC TERMS. IN HIS
SPEECH AT THE BOEING CO. AND VISIT TO AN AMERICAN FAMILY,
JIANG HIGHLIGHTED CHINA'S GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND
THE BENEFITS TO AMERICAN FIRMS AND WORKERS FROM AN
IMPROVED U.S.-CHINA RELATIONSHIP.7. COMMENT: CHINA'S PRESENCE AT APEC BROUGHT IT ONTO THE
WORLD STAGE IN A POSITIVE WAY THAT CONTINUED BEIJING'S
CONFIDENTIAL 3QUEST FOR RECOGNITION AS A MAJOR REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL
PLAYER. SIMPLY BY AVOIDING ANY MAJOR PUBLIC CAFFES OR
SERIOUS FRICTION WITH TAIWAN IN SEATTLE, JIANG HAS
BOLSTERED HIS PERSONAL STATURE WITHIN THE CHINESE
LEADERSHIP AND DISPELLED CONCERNS THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE UP
TO SUCH HIGH-STAKES EXPOSURE. FOR NOW, HOWEVER, WE MAY
HAVE TO WAIT JIANG AND QIAN'S RETURN BEFORE SEEING A MORE
DEFINITIVE LINE EMERGE ON THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING.
HALLFORD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR (1)

Date: 1 May 96

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions

PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:

EO Citations

TS authority 1

() CLASSIFY as () S or
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or (

UNCLASSIFIED